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The Publisher, Staff &
Editors

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From the Editor's Desk...

Ah.. Memorial Day Weekend. the beginning of the summer season and of course the time we hear "School's Out" is fast approaching. The kids are already out there on their bicycles in droves so. keep an eye out for them while driving. Also, this weekend is a race fan's dream weekend both the Indy circuit and NASCAR are on the top billing for Sunday's Car Racing fun.

Which brings me to talking about my oldest son Ralph. he and his brothers have begun a Racing Team and have their first NASCAR Sanctioned car. its going to get interesting. My Dad was a Race Driver at Long Island's Freeport Speedway many years ago in the midget races. I, as a young man, Raced in the quarter mile Drags all up and down the east coast in AHRA Gas and Fuel Classes. My last car was a '65 Vette (327/365hp Fuel Injected and finally.. 671 Blown, Isky 505 Roller Cam & Lifters). Seeing Ralph and his brothers go for it feels pretty good to me.. they're (all four of them) very serious and truly applying themselves as I've never seen before out of any of them. They already have three motors built up and the major portion of the paraphernalia needed to carry on a successful racing enterprise. Of course, at this point its all amateur, but who knows? Maybe ..just maybe they'll be racing near your hometown in the near future.

Please.. For this long, glorious holiday weekend. don't drink and drive.. enjoy the Beach, Pool and BBQs but if you're gonna imbibe. don't

drive. Have a Great Holiday Weekend!

Ralph

Of Special Note:

<http://www.streport.com>

STReport is now ready to offer much more in the way of serving the Networks, Online Services and Internet's vast, fast growing site list and userbase. We now have our very own WEB/NewsGroup/FTP Site and although its in its early stages of construction, do stop by and have a look see. Since We've received numerous requests to receive STReport from a wide variety of Internet addressees, we were compelled to put together an Internet distribution/mailing list for those who wished to receive STReport on a regular basis, the file is ZIPPED, then UUENCODED. Unfortunately, we've also received a number of opinions that the UUENCODING was a real pain to deal with. So, as of October 01,1995, you'll be able to download STReport directly from our very own SERVER & WEB Site. While there, be sure to join our STR list.

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LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS

Weekly Happenings in the Computer World

Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

Internet Pioneer Wins Award

Vinton Cerf, often referred to as the "Father of the Internet," has won the prestigious MCI Information Technology Leadership Award for Innovation. Cerf's work will be honored on June 3 at the annual Computerworld Smithsonian Awards ceremony in Washington. Cerf is currently senior vice president of data architecture for MCI's data and information services division. He's responsible for the design and development of the network architecture to support MCI's future data and information services.

Previously, Cerf was vice president of the Corporation for National Research Initiatives of Reston, Virginia, where he conducted national research efforts on information infrastructure technologies. Cerf co-developed the Internet's TCP/IP computer networking protocol. He also played a major role in sponsoring the development of Internet-related data packet technologies during his stint with the Department of Defense's Advanced Research Projects Agency from 1976 to 1982.

The MCI Award recognizes individuals who use information technology to design, implement, manufacture or manage technological innovation. In receiving the award, Cerf joins an illustrious group of information technology leaders, including C. Gordon Bell, architect of the world's first minicomputers; Seymour Cray, founder of Cray Research; Kenneth Olsen, founder of Digital Equipment; Gordon Moore, chairman of Intel; and Erich Bloch, former director of the National Science Foundation.

Five Seek Net Computer Standards

Five high-tech giants -- Apple Computer, IBM, Netscape, Oracle and Sun Microsystems -- are seeking to set a standard for so-called "network computers," units devoted exclusively to simple, cheap access to the Internet. The firms say they have agreed on technical details for network computers, less powerful and versatile than PCs but good enough for exchanging electronic mail and surfing the Internet.

Business writer Catalina Ortiz of The Associated Press quotes IBM officials as saying the firm will have several NCs on the market by the end of the year ranging from around \$500 to \$1,000, compared with PCs that sell for \$2,000 and up. "It will change the way we communicate ... the way we do commerce," says Oracle Corp. CEO Larry Ellison, a leading proponent of the NC.

"It will change our economy. It will change our culture. It will change everything." Ortiz says that while the executives noted the agreed-on specifications -- which let different kinds of computers work together -- already are widely used, they and analysts called the announcement a boost for the latest branch of computing. For instance, President Tim Bjarin of Creative Strategies Research International in San Jose, California, told AP, "It is being defined now and referred to as a platform. They are trying to set in motion a set of standards ... so you can get something with an NC logo on it that says (it) is being backed by IBM, Apple and the others."

Businesses Show No Browser Loyalty

The most recent Web browser census conducted by Zona Research Inc. reveals that Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer are the most commonly used Web browsers, but that companies have yet to develop an unshakable loyalty to any one browser brand. According to Zona, the latest results indicate that, on average, corporate users have two brands of Web browsers available to them. Also, the majority of companies have not yet created a policy regarding the use of a specific brand, nor have they adopted a corporate standard.

The census finds that Netscape Navigator is the dominant primary browser, in use as the primary browser by 87 percent of the respondents. Microsoft Internet Explorer holds second place, mentioned as the primary browser by 4 percent of the respondents. However, when looking at all browsers used as primary or otherwise, the differences are less dramatic, with Navigator holding 59 percent of the market and Internet Explorer holding 17 percent. Within the sample, the average number of browsers available to a user was 1.98.

"Netscape's dominant market position is a reflection of their success at being the first widely available and promoted Web browser," says Stephen Auditore, president of the Redwood City, California, market researcher. "We see Netscape remaining strong, but expect Microsoft to gain ground as Windows 95 with Internet Explorer starts shipping."

First Pippin Due in September

Bandai Digital Entertainment, the first licensee of Apple Computer Inc.'s Pippin multimedia and Internet information appliance, has announced its plans for the technology. Bandai Digital Entertainment, the U.S. subsidiary of Tokyo-based Bandai Co. Ltd. -- a company best known for its Power Rangers characters -- says its @World Pippin-based system will go on sale in September for \$599.

Pippin-based systems will inherit the Macintosh's interface and will be based on the PowerPC RISC microprocessor. Much of the system software code, integrated cells and integrated circuits also come from the Macintosh. Apple expects that the PowerPC will allow Pippin systems to accommodate future generations of interactive CD-ROM titles and Internet browsing.

Apple notes that Macintosh software can be easily adapted to run in the Pippin environment. In addition, any Pippin title can play on the Macintosh platform. "With the Pippin architecture, Apple leads the world in developing the first low-cost Internet and multimedia information appliance and enables us to recast the television set as an entry point to the Information Highway," says Satjiv Chahil, Apple's senior vice president of corporate marketing.

"Pippin has unleashed a huge market opportunity and Bandai is the first to

take advantage of it. Pippin products are aimed at offering millions of TV set owners exciting, easy-to-use multimedia and Internet capabilities never before available."

"We feel that Bandai's @World will be a perfect fit for the U.S. market due largely to the enthusiasm that U.S. consumers have shown towards the Internet and the World Wide Web," adds Makoto Yamashina, president and CEO of Bandai Co. "The @World Pippin-based product offers families access to the world in their family room."

AST Shipping to Wal-Mart

Trying to raise the stakes in the contest for the low-end home market, AST Research Inc. has began shipping to Wal-Mart Stores PCs that are priced at less than \$1,000, including monitors. According to the Reuter News Service, the \$997 Advantage computer is AST's effort to compete with network computers, the stripped-down machines that will give users access to the Internet. The new AST units have an Intel Corp.-class '486 chip with 66MHz of speed and features Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95. Look for Wal-Mart to begin selling the models later this month.

HP Shuts Down Mainframes

Hewlett-Packard Co. says it has severed its dependency on the mainframe computer, becoming the largest company in the world to run its mission-critical applications exclusively on distributed open-systems platforms over the world's largest intranet. Thirty applications were migrated from a mainframe in fewer than 28 months during the most recent phase of HP's transition, including the company's most mission-critical applications, such as order processing, purchase agreements and payroll.

"The \$8 million in yearly maintenance savings generated by this unplugging alone can be well spent preparing our people and infrastructure for a future of virtual offices and knowledge networks," says Robert P. Wayman, HP's executive vice president of finance and administration and chief financial officer. "The \$25 million to \$30 million additional annual savings from implementing our PC common operating environment over our intranet allows us to invest more for HP's future."

HP's intranet, serving 90,000-plus employees at more than 400 sites, is believed to be one of the world's largest internal, private networks. HP's Intranet environment includes the following:

- " 84,000 PCs running the same core software applications.
- " 23,000 UNIX system desktops.
- " 6,000 servers.
- " 1,600 Web servers.
- " Netscape on 60,000 desktops.

Atari Narrows Its Losses

Citing a gain of \$6.3 million from the sale of some of its holdings, 20-year-old video game veteran Atari Corp. reports its first quarter losses narrowed to \$806,000 from \$4.42 million during the same period last year. Reporting from Sunnyvale, California, United Press International notes Atari sales plunged 75 percent to \$1.27 million from \$4.87 million a year ago.

Now Atari says its latest loss included a gain of \$6.3 million on the sale of the remaining balance of the company's holdings in a publicly traded security. Officials with the video game maker told UPI that sales of the

Jaguar continue to be disappointing and the company made substantial writedowns of inventory in the first quarter of 1996.

Atari said it is pursuing sales of its inventory of Jaguar product in Europe and North America. As reported, last February Atari and JTS Corp. announced plans to merge the two companies. JTS is a manufacturer of personal computer hard disk drives. Under the terms of the agreement, the new company will operate under the name of JTS and the officers of JTS will become the officers of the merged company.

The Atari entertainment business and the JTS disk drive business will operate as separate divisions of the new merged company.

McAfee Launches Web-Based Backups

McAfee Inc. has launched a low-cost electronic vaulting service that allows desktop computer users to backup and restore personal data files over the Internet's World Wide Web. The McAfee Personal Vault service utilizes McAfee's WebStor client backup software. WebStor simplifies the backup and recovery process by utilizing the Windows 95 Explorer interface. For example, to restore from the McAfee Personal Vault, a user simply mouse clicks on a file to bring it back to its directory of origin. Users can also configure WebStor to back up selected files to The McAfee Personal Vault at predetermined times. To restore an item, users simply access The McAfee Personal Vault and drag the data file back to its original directory position. WebStor is a true 32-bit application.

"The McAfee Personal Vault and WebStor leverage the high availability of the Internet to provide near instantaneous backup and retrieval of personal data files without the hassles associated with traditional tape backup systems," says John Staudenraus, product marketing manager at McAfee. "Road warriors will find that our solution is ideal for protecting laptops and desktop-based data. With 24 hour access from anywhere in the world, the vault will be popular with anyone who uses the Internet."

Wired's HotBot Hits the Web

Nothing wows the Web like a new search engine, so the Net community is lining up to give HotBot a try as it makes its debut today. HotBot -- created in a partnership between Inktomi Corp. of Berkeley, Calif., and Wired Magazine's HotWired Ventures of San Francisco -- "purports to search every last one of the estimated 50 million or more Web pages currently in existence," writes Elizabeth Weise of The Associated Press.

Weise adds, "With the search service, Wired becomes one of the first media firms to use something beyond traditional news and feature articles as a lure for delivering advertising messages on the Web." HotBot Marketing Directory David Pritchard told the wire service, "There's certainly more traffic on a search service than on HotWired. We're trying to help advertisers reach an audience that is in a specific mindset and also, we hope, make advertising more relevant to individuals."

AP says the new engine (reached at Web address <http://www.HotBot.com>) is the first to apply Inktomi's technology for locating information on the Internet's World Wide Web. "Whereas most current indexes work from a single, extremely large, fast -- and expensive -- computer," says Weiss, "Inktomi takes a bunch of smaller computers and networks them together to do the work."

Company co-founder Eric Brewer told AP, "By using a bunch of little machines

instead of one big machine we get no limits on growth, better cost performance and better fault tolerance because if one node fails the rest can cover for them." HotBot is a direct challenge to AltaVista, said to be the Web's largest search tool to date, created by Digital Equipment Corp. to show off the power of its AlphaServer 8400 machines. AltaVista index covers 30 million Web pages, a little more than half of those in existence (everything but pages that specifically say they don't want to be indexed and corporate sites not meant for public view, backers say.)

Weiss notes HotWired and Inktomi dispute that figure and also say HotBot will index the entire Web weekly.

China Creates Its Own Network Censorship Raises its Heavy Hand

Worried about what it considers the subversive dangers of the Internet, China is creating a nationwide network of its own with only limited links to the outside world. Reporting from Hong Kong, Craig S. Smith of The Wall Street Journal says the country's powerful Ministry of Post & Telecommunications is unveiling the first of a series of regional networks that eventually will knit together to form an "intranet" closed to the rowdy Internet that has proven so difficult to control.

Dubbed GNET and covering southern Guangdong province, the new net will be offered free for one month to subscribers in Guangdong and Hong Kong. China Internet Corp. controlled by state-owned Xinhua News Agency, will form a joint venture with the ministry to act as a gateway between the network and the Internet.

CIC Chairman James Chiu told the paper only relevant international business information will be allowed to pass, adding, "In essence, they're creating a different Internet for China's use." He said full Internet access will probably be restricted to foreigners and selected Chinese nationals, while most people in China will be allowed only to use the closed network. "It makes it a lot more useable, without worrying about breaking the law," he said.

As reported, China earlier this year announced restrictions of Internet access for most Chinese, who now have to register with China's state police before being allowed to log on, rules that "have quelled the swell of connectivity that swept the country last year as tens of thousands of Chinese gained access to the Internet through a half-dozen service providers, including the ministry's Chinanet, the largest of them all," Smith writes.

Beijing -- concerned computer-disseminated pornography and political dissent would erode morals and Communist Party support -- now vows to create a closed system for China that could be more easily monitored and kept free of undesirable information from abroad. The Guangdong network will provide the province's businesses and individual users with education, entertainment, shopping, real estate, health and financial information as well as news, the Journal writes. Selected information from international businesses will be provided through CIC, which already has established a skeletal closed network using Xinhua's existing infrastructure.

Editor Note:

Did they call it..Guandong Network or.. "GuanoDung" Network??

How FAR must the RED Chinese Government go in the area of Civil Rights Suppression before the US Government finally REVOKES "Most Favored" status?

Which, in our opinion, should have been revoked immediately after the Beijing Massacre!

Where are the STRONG USA Politicians of yesteryear?? Those whose backbones were strong and laced with all American Blood! Not pasty yellow paste in gelatin.

The Internet PC

By BILL GATES

Almost everyone agrees that the potential of the Internet to improve personal computing is inspiring. What is hotly disputed is exactly how using a PC or browsing the Internet will change. Microsoft's aim is to make Internet technology central to the PC experience, but other companies riding the Internet tidal wave have their own strategies and visions.

Some companies promoting server hardware more expensive than PCs suggest that the Internet will finally do for them what they've dreamed of all along—that it will kill the movement toward powerful personal machines, and recentralize computing. They believe that a vaguely defined "Internet terminal," connected to an expensive central server, will supplant the PC.

Anyone reading this online knows that the Internet is changing the way people get information and interact. The Internet gives anybody with a computer and a modem the opportunity to reach a global audience.

As exciting for me is the tremendous potential of the Internet to reduce the cost and complexity of using a PC or a network of PCs.

There are promising hints already. You can click your mouse to update or configure software, including the web browser itself. You can browse or search for answers to technical questions. Soon you'll even be able to use the Internet to show your screen to remote support personnel, so that they'll be able to see your problem for themselves. These innovations are just the beginning.

Inexpensive PCs are coming. It's axiomatic that you're always able to buy more personal computer for your money than you could a year earlier. But prices have not fallen as fast as they might have, because surprising growth in PC sales volumes has kept components in relatively short supply.

With growth rates moderating now and components becoming plentiful, in the not-too-distant future you'll almost certainly see capable PCs priced well below \$1,000.

Simple PCs are coming, too. I recently announced an initiative, supported by many leading hardware manufacturers, to create what we call the "Simply Interactive Personal Computer"—or SIPC. It is a framework of technologies that will make the PC platform the center of entertainment, communications and productivity in both home and office.

A SIPC system will be quite easy to use. It will turn on instantly, like most other consumer appliances. It will interconnect with VCRs, stereos, and TVs. And every SIPC will run thousands of Windows applications, including web browsers and software for faxing, voice messaging, conferencing, and

exchanging e-mail.

The Latest Killer App

Our industry is always looking for the next "killer application"-for a category of software that, by its utility and intelligent design, becomes indispensable to millions of people. Word processors and spreadsheets were the killer applications for business PCs starting in 1981.

The latest confirmed "killer app" is the web browser, the kind of software you're probably using right now to read these words. A browser lets you move from page to page on the Internet's World Wide Web, or to navigate the private "Intranets" that corporations are establishing to improve internal information-sharing.

Today the most popular browsers are Netscape Navigator, which got an early following because it lead the way with speed and features and used to be free, and Microsoft Internet Explorer, an offering that will be free forever on both the Windows and Macintosh platforms.

Netscape and Microsoft have overlapping visions of the future of the Internet. Each company is working as hard as it can, as fast as it can, to develop software that supports its approach.

One consequence of this feature race is that browsers are evolving from relatively simple pieces of software into large programs, enhanced with various extensions, that engage every element of a personal computer. Browsers must be large, to support web pages that use active controls, Java programming, Shockwave animations, Acrobat files, compressed graphics, video, rich fonts and the like. Future web pages will make more use of audio, and future browsers will let people add annotations to a page or explore such things as the history of changes to a site.

Even without the new wonders coming up, contemporary browsers have already reached the point where they're more demanding of a computer's resources than any other applications-even high-end word processors and spreadsheets.

"I don't know that it's bad to be big," Marc Andreessen, a cofounder of Netscape, said in a recent interview about his company's browser software. "If you're adding functionality that people want, you pretty much have to [create a large browser]."

Netscape's strategy is to make Windows and the Apple Macintosh operating system all but irrelevant by building the browser into a full-featured operating system with information browsing. Over time Netscape will add memory management, file systems, security, scheduling, graphics and everything else in Windows that applications require.

The company hopes that its browser will become a de facto platform for software development, ultimately replacing Windows as the mainstream set of software standards. In Netscape's plan, people will get rid of their existing PC and Mac applications in favor of new software that will evolve around the Netscape browser.

Under ordinary circumstances, it would seem unattractive to build an incompatible operating system on top of an existing operating system. But because the widespread adoption of the Internet is a sea-change, Netscape's strategy could conceivably work if Microsoft wasn't bringing fast-paced innovation to Windows.

But at Microsoft, we're not standing still. On the contrary, the Internet

opportunity and the competition have us as charged up as we've ever been.

Windows to the Future

Microsoft's approach is to make Windows so Internet-friendly that no one using it will want a separate browser-not even a free browser. In Microsoft's view, people will use Windows to browse the web, just as they already use it to "browse" servers on corporate networks or files on local disks.

It makes little sense to have two separate worlds, one for PC applications running Windows and the other for Internet applications written for a browser operating system. Our goal is to meld the best of the PC with the best of the web, creating a single world of great promise.

Windows 95 already allows a folder to contain links to files and other folders. These links are called shortcuts. In an add-on product to be released later this year, we'll enhance Windows so that any folder can be a web page-complete with descriptive text and graphics, as well as the links to files and folders.

Here's a simple example of how this is already working in pre-release versions of the add-in product:

A folder can be displayed conventionally, as a list of file names or as a collection of icons. Double-clicking on a name or icon takes you to the item, as you would expect. But switch to web view, and the files are represented as links on a full-fledged web page-complete with graphics and descriptive text that makes it clear what role each link plays. In web view, a single click takes you to an item.

Microsoft believes that local and remote data should be treated identically. We expect browsing to be the dominant metaphor for using a computer.

Microsoft will embrace and extend standards and technologies coming out of the Internet, and provide great implementations for the PC and Macintosh. The moniker we've given our cross-platform technologies is ActiveXT-a name that reflects our belief that the days of static, lifeless web pages are numbered. We expect to see popular web pages enhanced with video, sound, and programming. In short, we expect pages to come alive.

An important benefit of Microsoft's strategy is that it preserves the tremendous investments that people and companies have made in computer hardware, software, and training. The world has more than 150 million users of Windows, and there are 5 million people developing Windows software, most of them with Microsoft Visual Basic. More than 1,000 companies supply component software that will adapt in pretty straightforward fashion into ActiveX features. Microsoft's Internet strategy rewards rather than discards the investments these people and companies have made.

Netscape shares Microsoft's view that users will get the most from the Internet by using capable personal computers that can store and process information locally as well as connect to powerful servers. But not every company shares this enthusiasm for personal computing.

A Terminal Idea

Sun Microsystems and Oracle are the two most vocal proponents of replacing PCs with special-purpose terminals that draw information from centralized servers.

These companies, which sell servers and server software, contend that the

combination of powerful database servers, downloadable component software, and fast communications links will make it unnecessary for people to have real personal computers connected to the Internet. They extol the virtue of networked terminals that are, by design, incompatible with today's PCs and applications.

These so-called "Internet terminals" or "network computers" haven't come to market yet, and specifics about them are scarce. The price tag is said to be about \$500, for a terminal that lacks certain elements of a real PC, such as disk or CD-ROM drives.

It's easy to paint a rosy picture when details aren't in focus. To bring the Internet terminal into focus, we must ask what tradeoffs it embodies: What else, in addition to disk drives and compatibility with mainstream software, is being left out in order to make the machine a few hundred dollars less expensive than a PC?

Until terminals actually hit the market, we really won't know. We can, however, speculate. Presumably the terminal's browser software will be stored in read-only memory (ROM), since there won't be a disk drive. This is a serious tradeoff, because ROM-based software cannot be updated. It all but guarantees a terminal's early obsolescence, because browser software is evolving rapidly.

Users of software applications have never been satisfied for long with static features or functionality. The consumer's appetite for constantly improving performance is what has made the PC industry so vibrant and innovative-and what makes it so hard for computer companies to find buyers for last year's models, even at great prices.

There is a precedent for weighing terminals against PCs. Sun and Oracle used to promote diskless "dumb terminals" for corporate local-area networks. You can make a case for the practicality of terminals that are connected to broadband networks. That's because local drives are less important when large amounts of data can be downloaded rapidly. As it happened, though, the so-called "X-terminal" didn't end up much cheaper than a PC, and never achieved even 1 percent market share.

Sun, Oracle, and a variety other companies have higher hopes for Internet terminals. One of their main arguments is that the networked nature of the terminals will simplify tasks such as upgrading software. But these ease-of-use advantages can accrue to any connected computer. People and companies alike will reap these benefits from the Internet-but not because their computers no longer have adequate memory or can't run all of today's applications.

Without a doubt, some people will buy Internet terminals. The machines may find a place in the corporate marketplace, where Intranets are becoming vital and broadband networks are fairly common. The terminals would have better prospects, though, if they were compatible with mainstream corporate software.

Terminals will find less acceptance in homes, where narrowband and midband connections to the Internet will be the rule for several years. Midband connections, provided via the likes of ISDN and cable modems, will be fast enough to please people who use PCs but not necessarily people who use terminals. The rich content and applications that will be popular in homes won't be well suited to weak computers (terminals) tied to weak networks.

From a price standpoint, terminals will be squeezed in the home marketplace

between PCs getting cheaper on the high end, and people hooking TVs up to the Internet at the low end. The Internet terminal is too close to being a PC, without really being one. It loses the advantage of being a general-purpose computer able to run off-the-shelf software, yet offers little in return other than a somewhat lower price-tag.

The tradeoffs may be more attractive for several other potential devices that you'll connect to the Internet. These are machines you'll use in addition to, rather than instead of, a PC.

For example, a telephone handset connected to the Internet involves major compromise. You give up everything except voice communications. But because a handset will be dramatically cheaper and more portable than a PC, the tradeoffs make sense.

New-generation set-top boxes will allow television sets to retrieve content from the web, but there will be ample compromise. Usually there won't be keyboards, although remote controls can function as mice. And televisions screens don't display text well. Furthermore, nobody publishes information on the Internet for display on TV screens yet, although that will change.

Overall, however, the tradeoffs for the set-top box look pretty good, especially considering that TVs hooked to the Internet could allow people from every economic sphere to enjoy the Internet's benefits. Keep in mind, though, that communications charges will mount up in the long run.

Game machines and consumer-electronics devices, such as some of the forthcoming Digital Video Disk (DVD) Players, will connect to the Internet, using a slender cousin of Windows as the operating system. We'll see an explosion of interest in multi-player games, where the contestants meet only in cyberspace.

Hardware companies will begin selling handheld personal digital assistants (PDAs) that rely on another cousin of Windows. These miniature information appliances will have LCD screens and connect wirelessly to desktop machines and networks, including two-way pager networks. Because these networks will, in turn, tie into the Internet, you'll be able to use the PDAs to browse the web or exchange e-mail.

Over time, PDAs will evolve into what I like to call "wallet PCs"-all-in-one pocket-sized devices that will serve as personal communicators, maps, guide books, repositories of digital money and credit information, identification, tickets, and so forth.

It's clear that a number of information appliances are going to become common in homes as well as in our pockets, and that these devices can't all be expensive. Keeping costs down is a priority, but people won't settle for underpowered tools.

The Internet era is a challenge and an opportunity for every person and for most companies. It certainly is for Microsoft. We've had a lot of challenges in the past 20 years, but this one happens to be great fun. We're optimistic about the outcome because we can see how combining the best of Windows and the Internet will make personal computing easier and better-all without asking people and companies to throw away their existing investments.

I'm betting on the PC, as I always have. I'm betting on Windows, too. I think most people will, and for good reason.

Edupage

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EDUPAGE IN SLOVAK

We are pleased to announce a Slovak-language version of Edupage, prepared by Vladimir Bibel in Bratislava and included in InfoDigest. Welcome to our Slovak readers of Edupage! Vitame slovenskych citatelov Edupage! For the Slovak edition of Edupage, go to < <http://www.eunet.sk/idigest/0000v.htm> > and enter username idigest and password idigest. (Besides English, Edupage is now available in eleven other languages: Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, and Spanish.)

FBI SCOLDED BY JUDGE IN COMMUNICATIONS DECENCY CASE

Federal Judge Stewart Dalzell, a member of the three-judge panel in Philadelphia hearing a case challenging the constitutionality of the Communications Decency Act, has reprimanded the FBI for conducting a review of charges that CompuServe was in violation of the act. The "review" (which the FBI claimed was not an "investigation") violated a court-ordered stipulation that the Government would pursue no investigations pending the resolution of the case, which was brought by 47 plaintiffs (including the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Library Association and

CompuServe) who argue that the Communications Decency Act is an unconstitutional violation of free speech. (New York Times 19 May 96 p8)

U.S. BUYS SUPERCOMPUTER FROM JAPAN

The National Science Foundation has chosen a NEC supercomputer for its Colorado weather research center, the first time the U.S. government has bought such a machine from a Japanese company. U.S. supercomputer company Cray Research had lobbied hard against the purchase, saying that NEC was unfairly offering the machine below cost. (Tampa Tribune 19 May 96 A8)

SILICON GRAPHICS TO SELL CRAY ASSETS TO SUN MICROSYSTEMS

Silicon Graphics, which recently acquired Cray Research Inc., will sell parts of Cray's assets that are closely tied to Sun Microsystems technology, such as the Cray CS6400 enterprise server based on Sun's SPARC/Solaris microprocessor chip and operating system. The deal will allow Silicon Graphics to reorient the basic architecture of Cray computers so that they run on Silicon's MIPS microprocessors rather than those made by its rival Sun. (Investor's Business Daily 20 May A18)

PC TUNE UP

Now there's a PC service center on the Web. TuneUp.com will scan subscribers' computers for viruses, update their printer drivers, and give them e-mail access to industry experts for consultations on specific problems. The service costs \$3.95 a month. (Business Week 20 May 96 p61)

IBM NETWORKING WITH 3COM AND BAY

IBM is working with 3Com Corp. and Bay Networks to make some of their networking products inter-operable with each other. The move will put the three companies in a better position to compete with networking giant Cisco Systems. "What they are doing is because of Cisco," says an industry analyst. "The Cisco/StrataCom deal has everyone freaked out." The companies hope to market "virtual local area networks" -- where individual workstations won't have to be recabled to tie into a LAN. (Investor's Business Daily 20 May 96 A20)

ARE CELL PHONES HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH?

A Mayo Clinic study warns that digital cellular phones can cause heart-regulating pacemakers to slow down, shut off or even speed up the heart rate. Bell Mobility notes newer models of pacemakers are built with electronic shields. (Toronto Star 17 May 96 E1)

CLOSED-CAPTIONING THE WEB

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting/WGBH National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM) is developing technology to bring closed-captioning to the Internet, high-definition television and multimedia. NCAM's director says the group is trying to "stay ahead of the curve," when it comes to making new media more accessible, because it's easier to build in the technology from the start rather than add it on later. "It was clear to us when the World Wide Web was beginning to take off that this was a new media with innate barriers to people with disabilities." The Internet project is exploring how HTML code can be written so that text is picked up by the screenreader used by visually impaired users, and descriptions substituted for some of the important graphics and pictures. For a prototype, check out < <http://www.wgbh.org/> >. (Broadcasting & Cable 13 May 96 p64)

CERT IS NO SECURITY BLANKET FOR CORPORATE COMPUTERS

Companies are beginning to realize that they can't depend on outside help when a computer security breach occurs, and are starting to staff insiders to do combat with crackers. The Computer Emergency Response Team at Carnegie Mellon University acknowledges that it can't possibly keep up with

the needs of the business community, and says it supports the development of internal response teams. Meanwhile, the trend is occurring in big government, too, where many agencies are setting up their own teams, rather than relying on the Energy Department's Techwatch service, which has handled computer security for other government agencies for many years. The National Institute of Standards and Technology plans to request funding for an incident-handling group that would provide services to other agencies on a fee-for-service basis. (Information Week 13 May 96 p14)

DEEP BLUE DEBRIEFING

IBM's Deep Blue computer was programmed to evaluate a total of about 20 billion moves within the three-minute window allotted for each move in a formal chess match. That capability is enough to consider every possible move and countermove 12 sequences ahead and selected lines of attack as much as 30 moves beyond that. The fact that this omniscience was not enough to beat a mere human is "amazing," says one of Deep Blue's programmers. The lesson here, says another, is that chess masters such as Kasparov "are doing some mysterious computation we can't figure out." Still, the IBM team got what it needed out of the match -- their goal has always been research to show how parallel processing can be used for solving complex problems such as airline scheduling or drug design, not to be world chess champions. After all, this *is* IBM, says an IBM PR person. (Scientific American May 96 p16)

TALENT SHORTAGE

Across Canada, there were 7,000 unfilled software jobs, about 3,000 in the Ottawa area alone. Technology firms find they must often boost salaries for software workers by up to 10% each year to keep them. Competition for talent is pushing up wages: some with graduate degrees and expertise in multimedia and Internet design are earning close to \$100,000 annually. (Ottawa Citizen 18 May 96 B1)

VOICE ON NET

Although the quality of voice communication over the Net is still far from perfect, Internet telephony is gaining in popularity and causing the long-distance phone companies enough concern that they've petitioned the Federal Communications Commission to regulate the providers of Internet voice-communications software as if they were telephone companies. Jeff Pulver of the Voice On Net Coalition, a group formed to coordinate the promotion of Internet telephony, says that "this stuff really works. No doubt there are going to be tremendous applications in business." The Coalition's site is < <http://www.von.org> >. (New York Times 19 May 96 p8)

NEW BUG FOUND IN NETSCAPE'S SECURITY

Computer science researchers at Princeton University have uncovered a new flaw in the 3.0 beta version of Netscape Navigator software that supports Sun's Java programming language. Programmers with malicious intent could write destructive software "viruses" that could use the security flaw to invade computers using Netscape to surf the Internet. Netscape acknowledges the problem and is releasing a fix for the bug. (New York Times 18 May 96 p17)

"OYEZ, OYEZ" ON THE WEB

A Northwestern University professor has developed a Web site that features oral arguments made before the Supreme Court, accessible with a Web browser and RealAudio software < <http://www.realaudio.com/> >. Fifty hours of arguments from 60 cases are available, including such cases as the United States v. Nixon, which denied a sitting president the power to withhold audiotapes from investigators. Jerry Goldman, the site's creator, hopes one day to expand the offerings to include recordings from 500 cases: "Someday, this is going to be the compete Supreme Court reference." <

<http://oyez.at.nwu.edu/oyez.html/> >. (Chronicle of Higher Education 17 May 96 A28)

TECHNOLOGY AS A JUNK FOOD

In the next issue of Educom Review, technology visionary Alan Kay says in an article on "the use and misuse of computers in education" that it makes him sad to be shown a classroom full of children joyfully using computers: "This is technology as a junk food -- people love it but there is no nutrition to speak of." In the July/August issue you will also meet learning technology entrepreneur Bernie Gifford, Internet pioneer Vint Cerf, and tele-communications policy expert Eli Noam, and read about "Ethics Online," "Should Distance Learning be Rationed," and much more. (Educom Review Jul/Aug 96; for info: offer@educom.edu).

PC HOMES UP 16% FROM LAST YEAR

The number of households that own personal computers grew by 16% last year, according to a new survey by Computer Intelligence Infocorp., which interviewed 11,500 PC users. That puts the total percentage at 38.5% of U.S. homes that have one or more PCs. "We were surprised to see penetration levels jump five percentage points," says a Computer Intelligence analyst. "That is a very healthy increase." Recent buyers tended to be older and less-affluent Americans. The growth in PC ownership among households making \$10,000 to \$30,000 is up nearly 25%, to a range between 10% and 30% of the total, and about 20% of households headed by people over 60 now contain a PC. (Wall Street Journal 21 May 96 B10)

NC SUPPORTERS, UNITE

Oracle, Sun Microsystems, Netscape and IBM have developed a set of software standards to operate the Network Computer, and Sun, IBM, Mitsubishi, Olivetti Group and several other manufacturers have pledged to begin making the devices this fall. The machines won't all meet Oracle CEO's benchmark price of \$500 -- some may cost twice that -- but they all promise ease of use and a focus on the Internet for work and entertainment. Predicts Ellison: "There will be more NCs sold by the turn of the century than PCs." (Business Week 27 May 96 p38)

"SECURITY IS NO. 1 PROBLEM"

FOR UNIVERSITY COMPUTER SYSTEMS

University computer systems administrators are spending more and more time and resources on tracking computer vandals and cleaning up the messes they leave. "Security is the No. 1 problem I worry about," says a Clemson University systems programmer. "Universities face a particularly daunting challenge, because we require openness," says a University of Maryland computing administrator. "As of this moment, the hackers are actually winning the battle." The problem could lead to more universities installing corporate-like firewalls to foil crackers, such as the one recently added to Cornell University's computer science department. Cornell's computer security policy is left up to individual departments -- there is no university-wide firewall. "It's politically impossible," says a Tufts University professor. "It's difficult to justify security measures, even if they're obviously needed, because of the potential cost, and in particular the cost of supporting such a measure." (Chronicle of Higher Education 24 May 96 A19)

HANG ON TO YOUR LAPTOP!

Laptop theft rose 39% last year from the year before, with the hardware alone valued at \$640 million. But the software -- specifically critical competitive business information -- is what really hurts, say many corporate executives. Vendors are responding to the problem in several ways: Panasonic Personal Computer Co. next month will release its CF-62 notebook, which will

include a removable PD optical disk drive, allowing users to store data separately from the machine, and NEC Technologies has incorporated an audio alarm into its docking station that goes off if someone tries to pull the computer out without unlocking it first. (Information Week 13 May 96 p16)

REED EXPLAINS IT ALL

FCC Chairman Reed Hundt uses a sports analogy to explain the new rules of competition for telecommunications companies: "Suppose the competitor of the local phone company were the Washington Redskins and the incumbent phone company was the Dallas Cowboys. Congress has said that the Redskins have the right to borrow Emmitt Smith for any number of plays. That is called unbundling an element of the incumbent's network. And the Redskins can use the entire Cowboy team at a discount off what Jerry Jones has paid them. That's called resale. Also the Redskins can hand off the ball to Smith if their own runners aren't doing so well. That's called interconnection. If Smith helps the Redskins get a touchdown, that's called termination, for which some think the Cowboys should be paid nothing but the Redskins should get the points." (Investor's Business Daily 20 May 96 A6)

COMPUSERVE DITCHES PROPRIETARY SOFTWARE

CompuServe is phasing out its proprietary software in favor of a more "open" Web environment. The move underscores the power of the Internet, which has been embraced by other commercial providers such as Microsoft, Prodigy and AT&T. CompuServe subscribers will retain access to its online content, which will be inaccessible by nonsubscribers. "The pain of a proprietary online service isn't going to be worth the effort," says one analyst. "The future is going to be on the Web." Right now, it's uncertain how CompuServe's new strategy will affect its Internet-only Sprynet unit, and its WOW! service targeted toward families and children. (Wall Street Journal 21 May 96 B10)

BANKING ON CHANGE

A report from Ernst & Young and the American Bankers Association analyzing U.S. and Canadian banking practices says that home banking, telebanking, automated teller machines and other nontraditional banking channels accounted for 45% of all banking transactions in 1995 -- with that percentage expected to grow to 60% by 1998. (Computerworld 20 May 96 p73)

SMOOTH SAILING FOR TELEMEDICINE IN THE MILITARY

Whereas telemedicine has hit several bureaucratic barriers in the civilian world, it's been smooth sailing in the military, where issues such as interstate medical licensing don't matter. The aircraft carrier George Washington, stationed in the Adriatic, is equipped with a radiography unit made by Fuji Medical Systems USA that can transmit X-ray images to Navy hospitals in the U.S. for diagnosis and consultation, and a mobile Army unit in Bosnia is now has the same capability, sending its images to U.S. military hospitals in Europe. (Investor's Business Daily 21 May 96 A8)

NEW SEARCH ENGINE

A new search engine called Hotbot uses "hive computing" that links several workstations into a network so that each machine can work on part a separate part of a search of the approximately 50 million pages now on the World Wide Web. A public beta version is at < <http://www.hotbot.com> > (New York Times 21 May 96 C5)

THE NET MEANING OF LIFE

Venture capitalist John Doerr says that the value of "the big new Net applications" is not that they lower an organization's costs but that they expand its opportunities: "They amplify the 'top line' of an organization's mission, whether for profit, education or government. So the compelling new Net applications help us sell, entertain, inform, educate, inspire,

communicate, govern, chat, collaborate and even make meaning out of life."
(U.S. News & World Report 27 May 96 p62)

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

The CAUSE organization's annual conference on information technology in higher education is scheduled for the end of this month in New Orleans. The conference will bring together administrators, academicians and other managers of information resources. For full conference information check out <<http://cause-www.colorado.edu> > or send e-mail to conf@cause.colorado.edu.

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Educom -- Transforming Education Through Information Technology

Caldera Newswire STR Focus

CALDERA OPEN LINUX PRODUCT
TO OBTAIN POSIX AND FIPS CERTIFICATIONS
AND

THE X/OPEN BRAND FOR UNIX 95 AND XPG4 BASE 95

Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) and localization added to
Caldera's product line

LINUX KONGRESS, BERLIN, Germany May 23, 1996 -- Caldera, Inc. today announced that it has acquired additional key Linux technologies and engineers, enabling the company to achieve the X/Open brand for UNIX 95 and other certifications for its next version of the Linux operating system, Caldera Open Linux, upon which Caldera will base its product line beginning this Fall. Caldera believes the X/Open brand and other certifications are the next steps forward in providing the corporate and government markets with proven Linux technologies and products, which have gained substantial market share among the Internet and development communities during the past several years. Caldera also today announced plans to add LDAP technologies to Caldera's product line.

"By developing and publishing source code over the Internet, Caldera and the Linux community are changing the way that an X/Open branded UNIX 95 operating system is developed and distributed," said Bryan Sparks, President and CEO of Caldera, Inc. "Linux technologies developed by the Internet community have secured market share and application development that rivals the best of established computer industry vendors. Caldera development and infrastructure efforts will now take Linux technologies and products into companies, governments and other organizations that demand that software undergo rigid standards testing and certifications."

Caldera has acquired additional Linux technologies from Lasermoon of Wickham, England. Lasermoon pioneered Linux's migration towards X/Open standards and other certifications, and held the necessary test suites and membership in The Open Group, the leading consortium for the advancement of open systems. Ian Nandhra, one of Lasermoon's co-founders, is now Caldera's Director of Product Certification.

Caldera has also retained the UNIX systems and Linux expertise of engineers from Linux Support Team (LST) of Erlangen, Germany, who will spend the next few months integrating technologies from Lasermoon, Caldera's existing operating system, additional Single UNIX Specification APIs and Internet technologies, and LST's Linux 2.2 operating system, based on Linux 2.0 source code from the Internet. The resulting version of the Linux OS will be called Caldera Open Linux. It will be POSIX.1 (FIPS 151-2) certified, localized and fully compatible with Caldera's existing products.

Caldera Open Linux, scheduled for release in Q3 1996, will be published freely with full source code via the Internet to individuals and organizations seeking stable, UNIX systems solutions. Caldera plans to achieve: POSIX.1 (FIPS 151-2) in Q3 1996; XPG4 Base 95 (POSIX.2, FIPS 186) by Q4 1996; and X/Open brand for UNIX 95 based on the Single UNIX Specification (formerly known as SPEC 1170) during 1997.

"The Open Group is very pleased that Caldera has chosen to obtain the X/Open brand for UNIX 95 for its version of the Linux operating system," said Graham Bird, Director of Branding for the Open Group. "Once Caldera Open Linux achieves the X/Open brand, it will be qualified to bid business in the open systems market the value of which exceeds \$16 billion in procurement of X/Open branded products alone."

Ransom Love, Vice President of Marketing and Sales for Caldera, added, "Our customers are pleased with the capabilities of Caldera's first product, the Caldera Network Desktop, and are now asking us to provide the X/Open brand,

localization, and additional technologies. Caldera Open Linux will provide this additional functionality and certification capabilities that no existing Linux OS version can provide."

Caldera made this announcement from Linux Kongress in Berlin, Germany, where the core of Linux developers and vendors worldwide meet each year to discuss accomplishments and future plans for Linux technologies. At Linux Kongress, Caldera planned to meet with key Linux developers and vendors to discuss how Caldera can best meet the needs of the Internet community, Linux developers and enthusiasts, and the commercial computer industry market all of which are seeking to lower computing costs while increasing the functionality and availability of customizable software systems.

Caldera will collaborate with developers in the Internet and Linux communities to develop and refine technologies that add specific functionality that Caldera's customers are requesting. In addition to publishing the source code for Caldera Open Linux, Caldera will provide a significant percentage of net revenues from the product back to the Internet and Linux communities through funding for future technology development.

Caldera is also collaborating with mainstream industry software vendors (ISVs) who are porting their products to Caldera's platform. Caldera and its partners are delivering products that provide Internet and UNIX systems capabilities at commodity pricing.

LDAP

Caldera also today announced plans to release Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) services and incorporate LDAP into Caldera's product line this Fall. LDAP creates a standard way for Internet clients, Web servers and applications to access directory listings of thousands of Internet users. "Caldera supports LDAP as a proposed open standard for directory services on the Internet," said Sparks. "LDAP will enable Caldera's customers to access online directory services via the TCP/IP network protocol."

Caldera Europe

Currently, Caldera's European business is handled by LunetIX based in Berlin, Germany. This Fall, Caldera will create Caldera Europe, comprised of employees from both LunetIX and LST. European customers and resellers seeking additional information about Caldera should contact LunetIX in Berlin at telephone number +49-30-623-5787 or contact Caldera's Provo, Utah-based headquarters.

The Caldera Linux Operating System

Caldera's mission includes creating the products, alliances, VAR channel, ISV channel, technical support programs and corporate accountability necessary for an emerging technology to obtain widespread implementation in the business environment. Using Linux technologies, Caldera has a solid start. Mirai, a Chicago-based consulting company, polled Webmasters worldwide in 1995 and found that nine percent of World Wide Web servers were running on the Linux operating system (<http://www.mirai.com/survey>). This places Linux second only to Sun technologies as a UNIX systems Web server platform.

Caldera has created a solid foundation on which third party developers can successfully design, develop, distribute or employ services that meet the needs of the expanding market with low product costs for consumers.

Caldera, Inc., a privately held company established in 1994, empowers the Internet community, developers, OEMs, channel partners, ISVs, industry partners, consultants and end-users to collaborate, innovate, build and deliver meaningful computing alternatives based on Linux to the business

community. Caldera is at <http://www.caldera.com/> or (801) 229-1675. For orders and information call (800) 850-7779 in the United States or (801) 269-7012 Internationally.

Caldera is a registered trademark; and Network Desktop, Caldera Internet Office Suite, Caldera Solutions CD, and Caldera Open Linux are trademarks of Caldera, Inc. UNIX is a registered trademark, in the United States and other countries, licensed exclusively through X/Open Company Limited. X/Open is a registered trademark of X/Open Company Limited.

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tel: (801) 229-1675 x305

STR Editor's Mail Call "...a place for the readers to be heard"

Editor's MailBag

Messages * NOT EDITED * for content

A call for HELP!

Subject: Help Needed
From: Fred G. Heath 100077,750
To: Ralph @ STReport 70007,4454
Date: 23-May-96 14:47

Hi,

I have an old Compaq LTE286 - I wish to upgrade for my son by putting in a bigger hard drive - My configuration diskettes are up the creek - can you advise me how I can obtain this on Compuserve or alternatively is there a way to get into configuration.

Unfortunately I am currently located in South Africa and trying to get this here are impossible.

Thanks

Fred Heath

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Program Requirements

IBM	Macintosh
OS: Windows 3.1, Windows 95	OS: System 7
CPU: 386 or better	CPU: Color Macintosh
HD Space: 2 MB	HD Space: N/A
Memory: 8 MB	Memory: 8 MB
Graphics: 640 by 480 with 256 colors	Graphics: 256 colors, 13" monitor
CD-ROM: Double-speed recommended	CD-ROM: Double-speed recommended
Audio: 8-bit Windows compatible sound card	
Other: printer, microphone, mouse	Other: printer, microphone

reviewed by Angelo Marasco

If you're a baby boomer then I'm sure that you remember Color Forms stickers. Kids used to spend hours putting together imaginary scenes with those things. I myself once spent several hours with one of my brothers putting together an imaginary scene with some scratch and peel stickers on a paper background. What great fun it was!

Now, Edmark has taken the concept several steps further with the Imagination Express Series. The boss gave me a chance to review "Destination: Pyramids" from the series and I'm really glad he did. This was an opportunity to experience some of what I think home computing really ought to be.

Destination: Pyramids is a time travel machine of sorts that takes you back about 4500 years to ancient Egypt. Using a multimedia "fact book" and backgrounds with your choices in stickers you can experience a time when the Egyptians were building the great pyramids and were the rulers of the known world. What is really great is that you experience and learn about many different aspects of ancient Egyptian life. Destination: Pyramids as a whole is something like going to Mexico City and walking the side streets. The city you experience there is much different from the city that you experience on the main streets.

Destination: Pyramids is a great idea that is well executed. These aren't ordinary backgrounds with ordinary stickers to paste on them. These backgrounds have sounds that can be associated with them. These stickers come to life. You put these stickers and backgrounds together with text and recorded sounds to make electronic books. This program went well beyond my expectations.

The program installed a control panel that comes up when you double-click the Imagination Express icon in the Edmark program group. From this control panel you choose which Imagination Express theme pack you wish to enter. After choosing the Destination: Pyramids theme pack you may choose to view a sample electronic book, story ideas or the "fact book."

I spent about twenty minutes viewing story ideas presented by several children and the program never ran out of new ideas. This is a great way to

get ideas after you have become familiar with the controls and how to set up an electronic book.

The fact book is loaded with facts about ancient Egypt. Some facts are presented in text form with pictures and others are presented in a multimedia format with videos or slide presentations. You can also choose to have the fact book page read to you by a very pleasant narrator. The fact book is like a small encyclopedia on ancient Egypt. While I'm sure that not everything about ancient Egypt is included in the fact book, it does seem fairly complete and is very satisfying to this fact-hungry computer user.

The real treat comes when you begin to put together your electronic book. First you are given a selection of backgrounds ranging from outdoor scenes to indoor scenes, villages to royal grounds, farms to temples. Some of the scenes allow you to select nighttime or daytime.

After selecting your background you can begin pasting the stickers on. Selecting the "sticker picker" from the menu bar gives you a wide variety of stickers to choose from. The stickers are grouped in categories. These categories include royalty, commoners, statues of Egyptian gods, animals and so on.

Clicking on a sticker in the sticker picker and dragging it onto the background brings many of the stickers to life with animation and sounds. After pasting the sticker you can bring up the "sticker editor" from the menu bar to make changes. With the sticker editor you can change the size of the sticker, change its orientation, turn on its animation if available or add sounds. Some of these options won't be important until you animate the page.

Animating pages is fairly simple once you get used to the controls. Simply click on the animation icon in the menu bar and the pointer arrow changes shape, telling you that the program is ready for you to move the sticker on the course you have chosen for the animation. If the sticker has sounds associated with it, you will hear the sounds during the playback of the animation. It was really fascinating to watch the scenes that I put together come to life.

This is one amazing piece of software. I spent every available minute for four weeks playing around with it and trying out features. Every time I ran the program, I came across some new feature. Even as I write this review, having just run the program again, I came across another feature that I wasn't aware of before. I really think that Destination: Pyramids has the potential to keep your children busy for months without getting bored.

Graphics gets a perfect score in the ratings. The backgrounds are crisp, clear, colorful and very realistic. I wish that I could give more than a 10 in the ratings scale. This program deserves it. Why? I have several reasons. First, the animation of the stickers is so very realistic and plain fascinating. Second, the stickers can be placed behind objects in the background scenes. For instance, if you move a sticker to the place where a tree is standing in the background scene, the program will place the sticker in front of the tree or behind it, alternating as you move the sticker around. Third, the directional orientation of the stickers changes as you move them around. Last, the stickers increase and decrease in size automatically as you move them from foreground to background. This is high quality, detailed programming that deserves a great rating.

Sound also gets a perfect score. The sounds generated by the stickers are realistic. The music and sounds for the backgrounds are high quality and

realistic. Once again Edmark's attention to detail earns high marks.

Interface took a slight hit because the buttons on the menu bars were just a little confusing to me. As I have mentioned in previous reviews, I don't like to look at manuals and instruction booklets because I know that your children and mine probably aren't going to take the time to do so. I want to know what it's like to learn how to operate the program from experience. In this case I had a little trouble understanding the meanings behind some of the controls. All of the control buttons use pictures rather than words on their faces. I have never been a picture person. The pictures on the controls in my van still confuse me after four months. Although the problem may be with me, I still felt that interface didn't deserve a perfect score. It would be a big improvement if an explanation of the button or control popped up somewhere whenever the cursor arrow passes over a control, or even when the control or button is pressed.

Play value also gets a well deserved perfect rating. I spent hours just playing around with this software. It just doesn't get boring. Destination: Pyramids is always full of surprises. The fact that you are creating your own different stories gives the program a little different character every time you turn it on.

I don't think that anyone can question the educational value of Destination: Pyramids. I learned things I never knew about ancient Egypt. I experienced, first hand, things I already knew about ancient Egypt. By the time I wrote this review I had to really work to remember that this civilization no longer exists. It was as if it were alive before my eyes. The fact book is just icing on the cake.

Bang for the buck deserves better than the 10 that I can give it. This is an extremely high quality piece of software. No, this is an amazing piece of software. At a limited-time price of \$29.95 it falls within my comfort zone for educational software. To tell you the truth, I would be willing to pay much more for this kind of quality.

Destination: Pyramids is well worth adding to your software library. The only thing that can make it better is to make it part of a collection of Imagination Express titles in your library. I not only recommend adding it, I urge you to get your hands on a copy today!

Editor's note: This title is available directly from Edmark through June 30 at a special price of \$29.95. This is a special school version which includes toll-free technical support and reproducible activity sheets. Call 1-800-362-2890 to order or obtain more information. I heartily agree with Angelo's recommendation of the Imagination Express series.

Ratings

Graphics	10.0
Sound	10.0
Interface	9.5
Play Value	10.0
Educational Value	10.0
Bang for the Buck	10.0
Average	9.92

File Format for STReport

All articles submitted to STReport for publication must be sent in the following format. Please use the format requested. Any files received that do not conform will not be used. The article must be in an importable word processor format for Word 7.0.. The margins are .05" left and 1.0" Monospaced fonts are not to be used. Please use proportional fonting only and at twelve points.

- '• No Indenting on any paragraphs!!
- '• No underlining!
- '• Column Format shall be achieved through the use of tabs only. Do NOT use the space bar.
- '• No ASCII "ART"!!
- '• There is no limits as to size, articles may be split into two if lengthy
- '• Actual Artwork should be in GIF, PCX, JPG, TIF, BMP, WMF file formats
- '• Artwork (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.) should be sent along with the article separately
- '• Please use a single font only in an article. TTF CG Times 12pt. is preferred. (VERY Strong Hint)

If there are any questions please use either E-Mail or call. On another note. the ASCII version of STReport is fast approaching the "end of the line" As the major Online Services move away from ASCII.. So shall STReport. The amount of reader mail expressing a preference for our Adobe PDF enhanced issue is running approximately 15 to 1 over the ASCII edition. Besides, STReport will not be caught in the old, worn out "downward compatibility dodge" we must move forward. However, if the ASCII readership remains as high, rest assured. ASCII will stay. Right now, since STReport is offered on a number of closed major corporate networks as "required" Monday Morning reading.. Our ascii readers have nothing to worry themselves about. Many grateful thanks in advance for your enthusiastic co-operation and input.

Ralph F. Mariano, Editor; STReport International Online Magazine

For Immediate Release

Corel Announces Agreement with iMPath Networks Inc. to Extend CorelVIDEOT

Ottawa, Canada - May 16, 1996 - Corel Corporation today announced a new agreement with Ottawa-based iMPath Networks Inc. to extend CorelVIDEOT. iMPath's world class communications products, including fully integrated video, voice and data multiplexers and network management systems, will give Corel the ability to send high-quality, full motion video and high speed data over fibre optic lines. Under the agreement, iMPath will develop a new video trunk card for Corel for use in iMPath's multiplexer. This new card will significantly reduce the per channel cost of the system and Corel will purchase the system for resale to its customers.

Corel's current desktop video communications product, CorelVIDEO, is a hardware and software solution that provides television quality video and audio, along with extensive communications features such as broadcast, multi-party conferencing, data sharing, and telephony. Within the local environment, CorelVIDEO uses a single pair of existing unused category 5 UTP wires to transport audio and video signals without impacting network traffic.

The addition of iMPath's technology will enable Corel to extend the range of communication of CorelVIDEO to a distance of up to 40 km, which is especially appropriate for larger customers and campus environments. iMPath is currently the only supplier that can provide a cost-effective, fully integrated solution for video, voice and data on a single fibre optic pair. "We are extremely pleased to enter into this agreement with iMPath," said Dr. Michael Cowpland, president and chief executive officer of Corel Corporation. "Their fibre optic expertise will increase by leaps and bounds our ability to communicate effectively in the video conferencing arena."

"Corel's leadership in marketing and desktop video conferencing, coupled with iMPath's strength in developing integrated fibre optic networks, represents an exciting partnership providing a highly competitive, fully featured product to our customers," said Greg Boyle, iMPath's president and chief executive officer.

iMPath Networks Inc.

iMPath is a leading provider of world class communication networks integrating video, voice and data on optical fibre. The TelePath family of multiplexers addresses a broad range of customer applications through a flexible system architecture and a comprehensive, PC-based TeleVue network manager, allowing customers to manage and control their information networks. iMPath supports network applications in the transportation, defense, industrial and utility markets worldwide. iMPath's expanding product portfolio addresses multimedia applications such as video conferencing, distance learning and international airport surveillance. iMPath's product plans target the hybrid fibre coax market with emphasis on telecommuting applications. For more information, visit iMPath's home page on the Internet at <http://www.impathnetworks.com>.

Corel Corporation

Incorporated in 1985, Corel Corporation is recognized internationally as an award-winning developer and marketer of productivity applications, graphics and multimedia software. Corel's product line includes CorelDRAW, the Corel WordPerfect Suite, Corel Office Professional, CorelVIDEO and over 30 multimedia software titles. Corel's products run on most operating systems, including: Windows, Macintosh, UNIX, MS-DOS and OS/2 and are consistently rated among the strongest in the industry. The company ships its products in over 17 languages through a network of more than 160 distributors in 70 countries worldwide. Corel is traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (symbol: COS) and the NASDAQ - National Market System (symbol: COSFF). For more information visit Corel's home page on the Internet at <http://www.corel.com>.

Atari: Jaguar/Computer Section
Dana Jacobson, Editor

From the Atari Editor's Desk

"Saying it like it is!"

Ugh... The first really nice week of weather and I get sick just as it unfolds. The drastic winter has resulted in many problems this spring; one of them, allergies, has apparently done me in. I thought that I was having another bout with pneumonia . something I never want to suffer again.

I'm finally starting to feel better again, but it's been a bad week for "working" on this week's issue.. my heart just wasn't in it (or any other body part!). Fortunately, a long weekend coming up should do wonders for the recovery process! In the meantime, I'll be short this week and let you get into the rest of the issue. Have a safe and enjoyable long holiday weekend; if you drink, don't drive.

Until next time...

PORTFOLIO CLUB (U.K)

Hello my name is Paul Finch, I thought you might be interested in the news that I have started up a club for owners of the wonderful Atari Portfolio pocket PC computer, my records show that you deal with Atari computers, so you can be one of the first people to be told about this new club, and membership is FREE. There are approximately 300 Portfolio users in Europe alone. This club is, therefore, part of a much larger group.

Do you know of any other person/company that deals in Portfolio hardware or software? If you do please let me know, so I can tell all the members of my club. I have contacts in U.S.A, Canada, Germany, and Czech Republic with supplies of new items for the Portfolio, i.e. memory cards, interfaces, 1.44MB floppy drive, Portwalk and Portlink kits!

Did you know it is also possible to backup your data on to a standard tape recorder, and upgrade your existing Portfolio to work faster or have a larger internal memory! The internal battery backup can also be increased from 10 minutes up to 24 hours! It is possible to work your Portfolio as a fax machine or have a individual copy of your Portfolio working program on your desktop P.C. There is even a way to transfer data between an Atari S.T computer and your Portfolio. This is all possible with software from me.

You will be able to read in my club disk, under CLUBNEWS about the range of magazines, newsletters, old and NEW, with a mint of useful information. Yes there is even currently a newsletter being produced in the Czech Republic which is written in English. There is also a copy of my club's HISTORY on disk. Anyway I look forward to hearing from you at sometime and if I can help anyone please give them my name, address, telephone number and/or E-mail me. Why not pass this letter on to a friend who might be interested ?

We must keep the Atari computers ALIVE!.

Mr Paul H Finch.16 Cedars Road, MORDEN, Surrey. SM4 5AB. England. UK.
Telephone:- Home:(+44)0181-542-8350, Work:(+44)0171-219-4768
E-mail:finchp@parliament.uk

Yours faithfully,

Paul INVITE3, Updated:- May 1996

P.S. If anyone would like to join this club, just ask them to send a S.A.E. to my address above.

Jaguar What?

From the Editor's Controller - Playin' it like it is!

As I mentioned in my opening remarks, it's not been a good week for me. Apparently, it hasn't been much of a week for the Jaguar, either. Lots of speculation has been teeming about the future of Atari, and the Jaguar. And, top it all off, you just have to wonder when AEO's Travis Guy drops a note online claiming "it's officially over" for Atari. Officially?!

Granted, things haven't looked good for the Jaguar in months. And, I don't see any real reason for any improvements of this status. Wouldn't it be ironic if Fight for Life was the last Atari game to appear on the Jaguar? It's my personal opinion that it's going to be an uphill struggle seeing any games released by Atari, especially before the final merger with JTS Corporation. I believe that all of Atari's focus is on the merger, and little else of real consequence for the userbase. Breakout 2000 was slated for a late May, early June release and there hasn't been a word about it entering production. A number of games are rumored to have reached completion and they're all in a holding pattern, if not dead.

It's a shame, but at least I have an excuse or two for my maudlin mood lately. Anyway, we have some interesting news for you this week even if it's not all Jaguar-related. It's a long holiday weekend, so what the heck. Enjoy it.

Until next time...

Industry News STR Game Console NewsFile - The Latest Gaming News!

CD-ROM Game Headed to TV

Berkeley Systems Inc. and Jellyvision say they have reached a deal with Telepictures Productions to create a TV game show version of their "You Don't Know Jack" CD-ROM game. According to the companies, the program will be syndicated by Warner Bros. Domestic Television Distribution and will debut in fall 1997. "You Don't Know Jack" is a pop-culture quiz show game that gives players the sensation of being contestants on a challenging and irreverent television game show, complete with studio sound effects and a sarcastic host.

"You Don't Know Jack" is the perfect CD-ROM game to make the leap from computer screens to television screens," says Harry Gottlieb, president of Chicago-based Jellyvision, which developed the game for Berkeley. "We designed the CD-ROM as a loving spoof of TV game shows, so it's very cool to get a chance to turn it into a real show."

"We are excited that Telepictures Productions wants to turn our top selling game, 'You Don't Know Jack', into an actual television game show," says Julie Wainwright, president and chief operating officer of Berkeley Systems. "'You Don't Know Jack' may be on the forefront of a new trend in the entertainment industry, in which computer games drive television programming."

EXPAND ONLINE GAMES OFFERINGS

Online Service Bolsters Games Offerings With Numerous Leading-Edge Additions

COLUMBUS, Ohio, May 20, 1996 -- As part of its renewed commitment to creating an online service that offers fun, exciting entertainment options for its members, CompuServe (NASDAQ: CSRV) today announced a relationship with Kesmai Corp. to offer numerous leading edge games to users of the CompuServe(R) Information Service. Highlighting the deal is the major online service debut of the new Windows version of Air Warrior, available now on CompuServe. This relationship comes on the heels of several other partnerships with online games leaders, including NTN Communications, Yoyodyne, Boxer Jam and GIC Software. These developments are part of an aggressive new strategy to expand the highest quality online interactive games selection in the world.

"As part of this announcement, CompuServe will launch New Game City, a new online area zoned for fun that will be the cool place to play the best games," said Srini Vasan, director of Games, CB (Chat) and conferencing. "As the online market continues its explosive growth among consumers and new computer owners, there is a huge opportunity for CompuServe's New Game City to truly become the best place for people around the world to meet, interact, and play games."

Vasan added that developing strong relationships with industry leaders is key. "Online technology is ideally suited for interactive gaming because it allows people to communicate and have fun no matter where they are," Vasan said. "We want to use CompuServe's existing global leadership position to take command of the games, chat and conferencing segments of the online market."

The relationship with Kesmai will bring the first commercial release on an online service of the new Windows version of Air Warrior, the highly popular air combat simulation game. Additionally from Kesmai, CompuServe will offer Casino Games, Classic Card Games, Classic board games (chess, bingo), Multiplayer Battle Tech, Stellar Emperor, Legends of Kesmai, Harpoon, Barbarossa, Destiny Online and Star Rangers to CompuServe users worldwide.

Previously, CompuServe and NTN Communications, Inc. (AMEX: NTN) announced a worldwide licensing agreement. NTN will provide CompuServe with a minimum of 24 games during a two-year period including its trivia game shows and sports applications. NTN's Countdown(R), a popular trivia show, and QB1(R), the NFL licensed play-a-long football game, will headline NTN's product menu for CompuServe.

Additional new games will include Boxer Jam's Game show, GIC Software's Word Games and Yoyodyne's Email Trivia contest.

Sega Unveils Modem Device

A \$200 modem attachment will be offered this fall for Sega's Saturn video game that will connect to the Internet and allow users to browse online. United Press International says the modem plugs into the cartridge slot on the \$250 Sega Saturn, providing an online connection to the Internet. Sega officials told the wire service that since the Saturn carries three 32-bit processors, it already is more powerful than over half of the PCs used for Internet access currently.

The company says the move is a way to maintain loyalty among its base of video game players at a time when new PCs offer increasingly complex game

opportunities. "The Sega Saturn Net Link brings the burgeoning cyber-world into the family room, where Internet-based interactive content will add an entirely new dimension to mainstream entertainment," said President/CEO Tom Kalinske of Sega of America.

Atari posts loss

SUNNYVALE, Calif., May 20 (UPI) -- Atari Corp., citing a gain of \$6.3 million from the sale of some of its holdings, Monday reported its first quarter losses narrowed to \$806,000 from \$4.42 million during the same period last year. Sales plunged 75 percent to \$1.27 million from \$4.87 million a year ago. Atari noted its latest loss included a gain of \$6.3 million on the sale of the remaining balance of the company's holdings in a publicly traded security. The video game maker said sales of the Jaguar continue to be disappointing and the company made substantial writedowns of inventory in the first quarter of 1996.

Atari said it is pursuing sales of its inventory of Jaguar product in Europe and North America. On February 13 Atari and JTS Corp. announced plans to merge the two companies. JTS is a manufacturer of personal computer hard disk drives. Under the terms of the agreement, the new company will operate under the name of JTS and the officers of JTS will become the officers of the merged company.

The Atari entertainment business and the JTS disk drive business will operate as separate divisions of the new merged company. In connection with the merger Atari has extended a bridge loan to JTS in the amount of \$25 million. In the event that the merger is not consummated, the bridge loan may be convertible into shares of JTS Series A preferred stock at the option of Atari or JTS and subject to certain conditions.

As a result of the transaction, Atari stockholders will hold approximately 60 percent of the outstanding shares of the new company following the merger. The transaction is structured to qualify as a tax-free reorganization and will be accounted for as a purchase. The boards of directors of Atari and JTS have approved the definitive merger agreement.

The merger is subject to certain shareholder and regulatory approvals and other conditions to closing. It is anticipated that the transaction will close toward the end of the second calendar quarter of 1996. Atari has been in the video game business for over twenty years.

ATARI CORPORATION ANNOUNCES FIRST QUARTER 1996 RESULTS

SUNNYVALE, Calif., May 20 /PR Newswire/ -- Atari Corporation (AMEX: ATC) today reported its financial results for the first quarter ended March 31, 1996. Net sales for the first quarter of 1996 were \$1.3 million as compared to \$4.9 million for the first quarter of 1995. As previously reported, the Company sold the remaining balance of its holdings in a publicly traded security during the first quarter of 1996 and realized a gain of \$6.3 million. Sales of the Jaguar continue to be disappointing and the Company made substantial writedowns of inventory in the first quarter of 1996. The Net Loss for the first quarter of 1996 was \$.8 million compared to a net loss of \$4.4 million for the first quarter of 1995. The Company is pursuing sales of its inventory of Jaguar product in Europe and North America.

ATARI CORPORATION AND JTS CORPORATION TO MERGE

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Atari has been in the video game business for over twenty years. Today, Atari markets Jaguar, the only American made, advanced 64-bit entertainment system and licenses its intellectual property to third parties. Atari is headquartered in Sunnyvale, California.

Jaguar Online STR InfoFile

Online Users Growl & Purr!

Reader feedback:

Hi Dana!

After reading the little piece in STR 1219 regarding Atari's lawsuit against Probe Entertainment LTD and Acclaim, I felt I just had to write to let people know of the situation behind these two companies facing the lawsuits.

Probe have been a UK games development house for nearly a decade; they have been responsible for the actual games behind the advertising. Many years ago, when the ST was starting to get big in the UK, Probe produced a version of Sega's coin-op game 'Out Run' for the ST, Amiga and other systems such as the Sinclair Spectrum which was still around at that time.

Before the actual game was released, the hype was tremendous, all the retailers were saying 'Place your order for Out Run today' together with trailers on video advertising the game (note, the advertising was ONLY from the hit coin-op game, which had done relatively well in the arcades of Britain, specifically in places like Blackpool's amusement arcades and others around the country.

However, when the game was actually released to dealers, who in turn sold them on to the punters who'd placed their orders for the game, what a shock! The game turned out to be a total nightmare. Unplayable, mono-coloured, slow, fraught with bugs was the actual long-awaited computer version of Out Run. At least when the ST version came out it had a bit more colour in it, all the same the actual playability of the game was very hit and miss. Some of the magazines around at the time contained letters from unhappy buyers of the game; however nothing was done to get refunds etc, under UK law. Put it

this way, Dana, one hell of a lot of members of the British public got conned out of fifteen pounds or more (I don't remember exactly how much the game cost now) but to the target market, which was teenage boys who do not normally get a wage (unless they happen to have a paper-round or something) it was a lot of dosh for a piece of rubbish.

Unfortunately, since then, Probe have not improved, producing worse and worse conversions of game software on all machines. It appeared as though they got the actual job to convert the games from coin-op but that the actual finished computer versions were never quite what the average person in the street would call 'good'. This fact and others were completely ignored by the UK trade press and this is the case even today; even though there is a lot of really bad software out there (some by Probe, most not) they don't seem to be able to recognize that a game has to be playable to be enjoyable.

Acclaim, although more a publisher than a development house, did not do as badly as Probe but they do, like most other developers in the UK have an 'anti-Atari' bias - which I feel is a great shame. It is the same in retailers here in England also most sales assistants seem to work along the lines of if a customer has a problem (say with a printer) things like 'If you don't run Windows push off' is the kind of mentality we get. My experience of US computer retailers is that they can usually recommend another dealer in the town or nearby that supports Atari where they don't.

Still, now I've told you the truth about Probe, here's some real Atari-related news:-

Over at the little village of Hittfeld, near Hamburg, Germany, the Atari scene together with the Amiga and PC scene joined forces for a 4-day event over the Easter holiday called 'Symposium 96'. Together with other colleagues from the Maggie Team, I visited the convention (known in the demo scene as a party) and got to meet many Atari users there who were members of demo crews. If any of your readers, or even you, Dana, have seen a Falcon-only demo called 'Lost Blubb' by a group called Lazer, you will know what I am talking about. The Falcon and even the ST scene was well represented, with lots of new PD demos and games being shown off for the first time. It was also the first chance we got to meet up with the team behind DBA diskmag for the Falcon; we had been waiting for this opportunity for a long long time!! It looks like new software is coming through thick and fast in the PD area; and remember, this is of a very high standard indeed! Much better than most commercial stuff produced by the likes of Probe!!!

By the way, if no-one in the US knows, or is still wondering where the latest issue of Atari World magazine is, I'm afraid to have to say that the mag has closed down. This was hopefully temporary, but it now looks increasingly permanent after the closure of Compo UK, who also controlled the magazine's publishing division. There are rumors of the mag's reappearance, whether this will come to anything, no-one else seems to know at this late stage.

The Falcon Fact File has produced a new HTML-based Atari diskmag called 'AtariPHILE'. Anyone on the Net can view it, it is situated at: <http://walusoft.co.uk/fff>. This is a good e-zine with excellent articles - if you haven't seen it yet, where have you been??? There is a question I would like to ask you; what has happened to the brilliant Atari mag, Atari Explorer Online?? We haven't seen a new issue of that since the beginning of 1996. Could you possibly shed any light on what is happening with it?

Even though STR's Atari section does make great reading material (unlike the British newspapers these days) we here in Europe miss our monthly fix of AEO!!! I know from reading past issues of STR that Albert Dayes is still

active, maybe he could inform us of what is going on.

Remember that Maggie 19 has been available for a little while now, we should have Maggie 20 out very soon. We've got some hot news regarding Atari and other people and places (in the movie scene) so make sure you check it out.

The 'Lost Blubb' demo for the Falcon and other demos can be obtained from either the University of Michigan archives or ftp.cnam.fr in the directory pub/Atari/Demos. Note that particularly for use on CNAM capitals have to be used to select directories!!

I hope to hear from you all soon,

Richard (Felice of Maggie Team)

-Richard Spowart - felice@rushden.demon.co.uk

ONLINE WEEKLY STReport OnLine

The wires are a hummin'!

PEOPLE... ARE TALKING

On CompuServe

compiled by
Joe Mirando
73637,2262

Hidi ho friends and neighbors. Boy, I'll tell ya, the first two days of this past week were HOT! We, here in the Northeast (or at least in Connecticut) broke two high temperature records in a row. I truly hope that this in not a foreshadowing of things to come. I don't know if I can take a summer of record-breaking temperatures and humidity. I mean, with an air conditioner or two going, I might have to (gasp) shut off my computer to lower my electricity bill to a more acceptable level... NAH! I'd just do without the air conditioner and find a cool place in the shade, plug in my Stacy and my modem, and tool on up to CompuServe so that I can complain about the heat at the speed of light (or, at least at the speed of packet-switching equipment). <Big Grin>

I'll make a deal with you... Send me email any time you want to with whatever you want to say, be it about the heat, questions about using the Internet, or about the status of HMI for the Atari ST series of computers. Now let's get to the purpose of this column in the first place... all the great news, hints, tips, and info available every week right here on CompuServe.

From the Atari Computing Forums

John Boraston asks:

"Does anyone know what has happened to the Atari World Magazine? I received the March issue but nothing since and have been unable to raise them on the telephone."

My pal Simon Churchill tells John:

"Atari World and Companion company COMPO UK are currently in receivership, there will be no more issues unless a new financial deal is arranged, however the gentleman behind both companies when last heard was winding them both up."

It seems that things are disappearing all over this week... Robert Aries asks:

"What happened to the Atari file finder? Unless I've lost a few too many brain cells, I used to type GO ATARIFF. Now, that command results in "Atariff is unrecognized"!

I wanted to find a uuencode program to decode a file I got over the internet. Browsed libs 2, 4 and 5 with keyword "UUE". No files found. Man, retirement time is coming sooner than I thought for this old computer."

Albert Dayes of Atari Explorer Online Magazine tells Robert:

"I can understand why the Atari File finder is no longer here. There is only one computer forum. You should be able to find UU(DE/EN)CODE program by browsing all libraries in this forum. I believe ENCODE or DECODE was one of the keywords."

Chief Sysop Ron Luks adds:

"The Atari File Finder was needed when there were more than one forum with Atari files. Since all the Atari Computer forums have been consolidated into one (this forum) the ATARIFF was redundant and was removed from the system."

It's a sign of the times, I'm afraid. The market, resources, and interest is dwindling.... get use to it. Case-in- point, Phil Warnell posts:

"CompuServe requires CIM to register your new personal address. How to get around this problem. Help!!!!"

Sysop Keith Joins tells Phil:

"The new personal addresses or aliases will only be available in NEWMAIL which runs under HMI. Unless an HMI program is developed for the Atari you won't be able to make use of them."

Michael Robillard asks for help with his modem:

"When I try dialing with my zoom modem it keeps saying that a connection has been made while it's dialing or just at the start of the dial. This causes me problems with some software which looks for connect and then proceeds like I'm online when I'm not."

Albert Dayes asks Michael:

"Have you attempted to change your modem initialization string?"

Michael asks Albert:

"What do you recommend for the following:

1. STORM
2. KAO9 NOS
3. FREEZEDRIED
4. STIK/CAB

I NOTICED that when I turn the modem on when running Freezedried the program thinks I'm online and I have to use ALT_H to hangup so I can dial. I usually use ATZ (as an initialization string).

Albert tells Michael:

"I use FLASH II for my telecommunication needs. I assume STORM should also work okay and is shareware. There is also STALKER v3.x from Gribnif too. Have you attempted to reinstall the freeze-dried software and see if that helps?"

Michael tries it and reports back to Albert:

"I've reinstalled the original version of Freezedried and everything seems to be ok right now. I'm experimenting with the following inits AT &C? &D? or AT &F &C? &D?. The modem seems to be operating ok now so thanks again for your help!"

John Watson asks:

"Now that Atari World has ceased publication in the U.K., can anyone recommend another magazine which covers the more serious applications aspects of the ST?"

I notice that Denesh Bhabuta is advertising a Canadian magazine called Current Notes. Has anyone seen this? Also there must be a German magazine. Does anyone subscribe? Is it expensive? Is it worthwhile if you can read a little German?

Any information and comments on your favourite magazine would be welcome, as there appears to be nothing in the shops here now and it is necessary to subscribe by post and this can be a fairly large outlay! Any comments most welcome."

Hans Romer tells John:

"Here in Germany there are still two ATARI-magazines available:

1. ST - COMPUTER / Monthly / DM 8,--
O Maxon Computer GmbH,
O Fax 06196/41137 Compuserve 100070,1744
2. ATARI inside / all two months / 6,80
O Falke Verlag, 24226 Heikendorf, Fax 0431-2736-8
O Sales office: IPV Inland Presse Vertrieb, 20022 Hamburg, Postfach 10 32 46"

Simon Churchill adds:

"In the UK we still have two magazines still running strong,

ST Format is still available, either subscribe or special order through your newsagent.

And

ST Application's is now in many form's available on subscription from the FaST Club (Correct Letter capitalising for there name Falcon/ST)"

Marc Grun adds:

"If you read a little French there's also a very good french magazine still available, called ST MAGAZINE. It's a magazine with disk.

You can contact them at:

LA TERRE DU MILIEU
Les Marmottieres
F-74310 LES HOUCHES
Tel:+33 50 54 49 77

They provide very interesting information about everything going on in the world ATARI. Of all other magazines (I know them all) reported in the other mails, this french magazine is the best one. It cost 32 FF."

John Watson replies to all who helped him out:

"Many thanks to Hans and Marc for posting details of their magazines. It is very pleasing to hear that Atari magazines are flourishing in Germany and France. I would like to subscribe to one of these magazines but there is a problem which unfortunately the EC has not yet solved. Banks make large charges for converting currency and this adds greatly to the cost of subscribing. Has anyone found a way round this problem? Maybe Compuserve can help. I have read that they have a scheme for payments for shareware registrations and perhaps they also do the same for magazine subscriptions. Does anyone know about this or where you enquire to find out?"

Mark tells John:

"As I wrote in my message the french ST Magazine, which is run by a company called Terre du Milieu, supports also some sort of Atari Club (which is called "Club ST", you get special prices on software an hardware if you're a member of this club). I contacted them to get member of that club and asked them how I should do for the payment of the registration. I myself wanted to do it by Eurocheque, and they told me that this would get to expensive (80 FF of charges for the cheque), so they told me to send them the money via the post by a method that's called MANDAT POSTAL (i don't know the english word of it) to LA TERRE DU MILIEU, etc. So I suppose that you could subscribe to this magazine by the same way as you would do to register to their club."

Tom Sheets posts:

"...[In the near future] I will have to go IBM or Gateway. I am sad to do this, but I fear that I have no other options at this time."

Dave Hudspeth tells Tom:

"Right--just don't buy a Mac, is all <g>. Unless you wanna buy *another* orphan computer..."

P.Walding tells Dave:

"I guess it depends how far into the future you look for a life span of computers , as to whether the Mac is an orphan. Also what you want from the computer. I have had involvement with most 8-bit and 16-bit systems over the last 14 (?) years. The long lasting love of my life is the Atari , currently manifesting itself in my Mega4STe (CD II graphics card / Geneva /

Neodesk 4). As a productivity output grading , it runs rings around the 486 SX 25 I use for Crystall Report Writer , etc. When Atari hardware upgrading became necessary , I balked at buying a TOS clone due to the logistics of getting service support if something went wrong with the hardware in our neck of the woods. I suspect that support would have been 1/2 a world away. I ended up buying a Mac and MagicMac and it has truly given me the best of both worlds. I can pick the eyes out of Mac and Atari software. Soon I will have to add a 486 or pentium and then I can pick the eyes out of Windoze software also. This is only because printer drivers for what I am buying are only available for software under the Windows platform.

I knew when I bought the Mac that I was acquiring another minority computer. However in the near (3 year) time frame it wasn't a problem and past that I suspect at the rate that hardware is evolving at. Anything I buy now will have become substantially dated."

Dave tells "P":

"I'd say you've gotten your money's worth out of it, since you've been using it that long. My post was merely a warning to potential Atari converts thinking the Mac would be their best choice, that they might wanna wait a bit and see how Apple fares in the near future. If they suffer another near-billion dollar loss quarter or two, I'd think they would be in huge trouble.

If you follow the ISV gossip, most of them are seriously considering abandoning Apple. With little new or innovative software, the Mac's days would be numbered. At any rate, I predict Apple is going to be acquired in a buyout by IBM or Motorola this winter, if they have another really bad quarter..."

Tom Sheets adds:

"Yeah, I know. I don't want a Mac. I want one that has all the features and all the hardware and all the goodies that are built in the computer. I want a 150Mhz or faster and all that. I want a super fast modem and all the gadgets. Know what I mean? But I know that I will be paying alot of money for a computer of that nature. oh well. Maybe someday."

Hey, don't we all want "bigger, faster, newer, easier"? Somehow, I don't think "easier" than the ST will come along for quite a while. Anyway, Dave asks Tom:

"Have you considered building one yourself? I just bought an Ocean Info Systems "Rhino-9" (don't ask me what the name means <g>) motherboard, that uses the Triton-II (430HX) chipset from Intel, a Pentium-150, and 32 megs of EDO memory for under \$1K. Currently, memory goes for around \$10 a meg--about a quarter of the price it was 18 months ago.

You can get an older Triton-I mobo with a Pentium-75 for under \$300 mailorder. That with 16 megs EDO, a 3.5" floppy and a case with power supply would cost about \$500. I would get the newer mobo, however (they usually support CPU speeds of up to 200 MHz), and later upgrade the CPU.

The new mobos have all the serial & parallel and enhanced IDE and floppy ports built into the mobo--all you need are ribbon cables to attach the components. A Western Digital 1.2 gig HD goes for \$199 (Drive Outlet Center's ad in the current Computer Shopper), a 6X IDE CDROM drive for \$99, the Diamond 3D Stealth 2000 (a true 3D video card, with z-buffering, gouraud shading, 2 megs of 40 ns EDO memory onboard, etc) from Computability is \$175, and a generic 16-bit sound card for way under \$100.

A Microsoft compatible mouse is \$6. The biggest single-expense item would be a decent 17" monitor, and for my tastes, the Iiyama 9017E goes for under \$900. I just recently upgraded my Pentium-90 on an old Plato (Neptune chipset) mobo, to the Rhino-9 and a Pentium 150 (which I plan to overclock to 166 MHz), and am now planning to upgrade the rest of the hardware as well, one piece at a time. When I'm done, my kid will have the Pentium-90 system <g>."

"Thomas" tells Dave:

"Hmm, That sounds really nice all for under \$1k? That is a good price. But, how long does it take to put together? I really would like to build my own PC, but I think it would take up alot of time, but in the end, it would be how I wanted it. I mean, none of this direct solder in the motherboard stuff, I would use chip sockets and stuff of that nature. I would do it right so I don't have to do it a second time or send it in for repairs. I don't have the \$ right now to get one. I will have to look in to it. My Atari Mega ST 4 is suiting my purposes for the moment. Computers are real expensive and hard to keep up with. I mean, with all the new technology out there, these big time company's are coming out with smaller, faster, more powerful machinces with better graphics, better sound and better all around. I guess I have been out of the computer biz too long to remember what the heck I was even doing. Well, I'll be a shopping and looking around for a good deal."

Dave tells Thomas:

"It doesn't usually take more than a day--all the components are pretty standard. Try visiting the PC Hardware forum (go PCHW) and read the posts from novices to systems builders who make their living doing this stuff. There's no soldering, etc. involved--you merely install the mobo into the case, connect the power supply plugs, install the CPU (most mobos have a ZIF socket--makes it really simple to insert or remove the CPU) and memory SIMMs, configure the jumpers on the mobo for the CPU speed according to the manual, then start installing all the daughterboards & peripherals. Once you're done with the hardware, you have to install the software.

Depending on what OS you decide to use, this can be easy or a pain in the neck <g>. The later, auto-detecting Oses such as OS/2 Warp, Win95 and NT can determine with a pretty good degree of accuracy what hardware you've installed, and set up the appropriate drivers. If you decide to stick with Windows 3.1 and/or DOS, then you'll have to set things up without help from the OS. Most BIOSes and many peripherals now are "Plug & Play", and generally you don't have to do any configuring of interrupts, addresses and/or DMA channels if you use Win95. Not as simple as the Mac, but then usually cheaper..."

Thomas tells Dave:

"Sounds like it will be easy to install. I don't know when or where I'll get it, but as soon as I have a bunch of bills paid off and all that good stuff, I will look into it and see if I will get one or not. Anyway, it sounds like it's not so complicated."

Well folks, that's about it for this week. Tune in again next week, same time, same station, and be ready to listen to what they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

STReport Confidential

News, Tips, Rumors, Expos[^]sl, Predictions

• Columbus, Ohio

CompuServe to make Sweeping Changes

"Super Snoop" has been very busy this past week. Last week we broke the story of CompuServe having a secret project underway. A project designed to make CIS "THE" Internet Service Provider. We did not however have the ID of this "Secret Project" last week. We do now. Its called "Red-Dog".

Further developments:

Its come to Snoop's attention. CIS staged an 800 conference call "experience" this past week in an attempt to "inform the press" of its true intentions. Seems though, that when the question of whether or not its current software was being abandoned. the line went silent and no forthright answer was offered. Apparently, Wincim and its relatives may see another "patch-like" version. Then HMI will literally "bite the dust" in favor of HTML. Its a well known fact, in the industry, that CIS' new servers are all WinNT (NISA) and.. HMI is choking and choking hard. Of course, Lex Crosett, the person responsible for affecting a smooth transition of HMI to the NT environment has seemingly failed miserably. Other industry observers have offered the opinion He and a few others at or, near the top apparently either lack the ability or, the interest in meeting the challenges of today's online community and are likely to experience some "profound changes".

In the world of Digital Communications, CompuServe was "looked to" as the Service that could and would lead the way. so much for "fairy tales".. Unfortunately, its fairly obvious CIS has literally "dropped the ball" as far as ISDN is concerned. The backbone is slow. they're using an aged, inadequate protocol (v.120) and then; incredibly. at 57.6kbaud. The rest of the world is using bundled 64kbaud yielding 128kbaud! On top of which, the number of ISDN nodes in the States can be counted in less than three seconds. Whereas other nets have high speed ISDN nodes operable in most every major US City. One of many typical voices offering opinions relative to the "poor state of CIS' ISDN service".

"Whether CIS needs to move to ISDN or to cable modems, they're going to need the infrastructure to support very high speed connections to the desktop. The current limit of 57.6 at the asynch centers just will not cut it as customers begin to demand the 128Kbps from ISDN or the multiple MBps coming from ASDL and cable modems. What we, as CIS subscribers DON'T want to see is another situation where CompuServe is lagging far behind the consumer in installing these high speed access devices.

Saying "Believe in CIS" to a user who waited a year to get 28.8 access is like saying "Believe in IBM" to an OS/2 user :^) It just doesn't cut it. CIS needs to be at the forefront in implementing this technology. ISDN isn't new; it's been available for over ten years now. It shouldn't have taken a rocket scientist to see that the demand for bandwidth at the desktop was going to grow and to have solutions ready to be dropped in place as soon as the consumers clamor for them.

Additionally, CIS must realize consumers won't clamor for the services until

they know they're available and usable. How many people do you think were told that yes, ISDN was available, but they couldn't use it with CompuServe, so they just didn't bother pursuing it any farther? I think CIS has a great chance to make its own marketplace here!"

WOW the "new offering" from CIS is apparently falling far short of expectations . seems close to or over forty million dollars was spent in advertisng and promoting this venture and so far. its only garnered fifty one some odd thousand subscribers. Further, it was noted that WOW at 17.95 per month was two dollars cheaper than its CIS owned and operated cousin, Sprynet at 19.95. Experienced industry observers chanted alike; "at this time CompuServe resembles a Rudderless Ship in every aspect of its activities." The once "Proud and Mighty CIS" is making all the "creaking and screeching" noises of an old, wooden Ferry Boat that's "missed the Slip" and hit the pilings of indecision and lack of direction.

Many of CIS' Information Providers (Forum Contract Holders) are extremely upset with management and some are reportedly "pulling out" lock stock and barrel, ala Microsoft. Among the many reasons cited as cause for such drastic actions are:

- " a lack of serious communications with the "brass"
- " excessive interference in the operation of forums
- " implied if not direct influence on the editorial content of forums
- " inability of top brass to "work with" the Ips.
- " lack of faith in the leadership of CIS on the part of the Ips.
- "

Of those IP's snoop spoke to.. They were unanimous in their dissatisfaction and were all ready to leave CIS. A few of those were extremely upset.. "things, in general, do not bode well for CIS if the Brass doesn't get with the times and darn fast".. was a often heard remark.

EDITORIAL QUICKIES

"ENJOY A SAFE AND FUN FILLED WEEKEND!"

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